



*To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*

## Reviewers Guide to Commenting

After years of focused work by Forest Service employees and partners, and extensive involvement with the public, the draft revised Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan and DEIS are now available for a 90-day public comment period.

Four alternatives, and a “no-action” alternative based on the current forest plans, take into account the spectrum of public comments we have heard. The DEIS identifies the outcomes and differences between the alternatives developed to address the issues identified through those comments.

Reviewing the documents and providing your comments is a key opportunity to stay involved throughout the remainder of the planning process. Your thoughtful comments will help the Forest Service supplement the analysis and refine the draft plan.

*Every alternative has benefits and tradeoffs to the American public and to the resources.*

Review documents:

- Online at [www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater](http://www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater) and click on Forest Plan Revision, then Draft Plan/Draft EIS
- After mid-January, review paper copies at district offices and local libraries – ask at reference desks.

### ***Keep in Mind When Commenting:***

- Review the documents in depth.
- Consider and weigh the tradeoffs and benefits of each alternative.
- Keep in mind the deciding official (Forest Supervisor Cheryl Probert) can choose elements from different alternatives.
- Think solution-oriented. Provide specific examples for a solution. This is more effective than simply a for/against statement.
- Provide rationale and reasoning; avoid assuming the reader knows your viewpoint or perspective.
- If providing scientific literature, connect WHY the citation is relevant to the area you are commenting on.
- **Avoid the quick answer to vote** and not provide anything more. **Dig deeper, consider the long term**, consider other viewpoints and provide reasoning when commenting.
- Each alternative is multi-faceted. Be specific about certain elements of an alternative, rather than “voting” for or against an alternative.
- Reflect and formulate your thoughts clearly before submitting, ensuring they are clear and concise.



# Reviewers Guide to Commenting

## Instructions for Commenting

The comments that you provide during the 90-day comment period will help us to further refine our alternatives and finalize our final environmental impact statement and forest plan.

### Comment Electronically

**Comments must be submitted within the 90-day comment period, ending at midnight March 19, 2020, or postmarked prior to or on that same date, based on the publication date of December 20, 2019, in the Federal Register notice.**

*Only those individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests plan revision during the opportunities provided for public comment during the planning process will be eligible to file an objection (36 CFR) 219.53(A)). **You must provide your name and contact information with your substantive formal comment for standing.** The formal comment periods for the Nez Perce-Clearwater plan revision are the 2019 proposed action scoping comment period and the DEIS comment period. **Commenting in the DEIS comment period is the final opportunity** to obtain standing. Comments, names and addresses will be part of the public record.*

### How to Comment:

- Directly link at: <http://bit.ly/NezClearFPRComments>
- By Mail to Zach Peterson, Forest Planner, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Supervisor's Office, 903 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Kamiah, ID 83536

## Aid to Providing Your Input

The plan aims to balance many uses across the landscape, protect resources and contribute to social and economic sustainability. When providing your comments keep in mind the spectrum of uses on the land and other interests.

If you have a concern, please offer a proposed solution or alternative. Some questions to consider may include:

- Do you agree/disagree with plan components? If you disagree, what changes would you suggest or can you suggest additional management direction that you would like to see considered?
- Do you have suggestions for a particular area?
- Do you have comments or suggestions about specific elements of an alternative?
- Do you have additional information to contribute to the EIS analysis?

